

GOD *BE merciful*

to us and **ble**ss us,

AND CAUSE HIS **FACE** TO *Shine*  
UPON US.


- Psalm 67:1

The elements of our worship, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows:

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7

**COME WORSHIP  
WITH US!**

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00  
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00  
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00  
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES.....7:00

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- [www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)
  - 1st Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
  - Men's Business Meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday night of each month Following Services.



## ***SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER***

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*"They...searched the scriptures daily..."* -Acts 17:11

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### **GET RICH QUICK SCHEMES**

Michael Pickford

I recently read an article about several of the people who've done late-night infomercials telling people how to "Get rich quick." P.T. Barnum is famously quoted as saying, "There's a sucker born every minute." The "Sucker" is the one who's easily duped by the scheme(s). Folks are duped because they desperately want to be rich. Christians should never allow themselves to be taken in by these various schemes. Consider the following verses that deal with riches and the love of money.

1. Riches fly away: Proverbs 23:5
2. Don't pursue them by overworking: Proverbs 23:4
3. It's difficult for a rich man to go to heaven due to him trusting in his riches: Matthew 19:23-24
4. Our life does not consist in riches: Luke 12:15
5. Loving money is idolatrous: Colossians 3:5
6. Loving money leads to misery and loss of souls . 1 Timothy 6:9-10.

We need to stay focused on the get-rich-quick scheme that really matters. It's spiritual in nature. It's the scheme of redemption. Jesus left the riches of heaven so we could be spiritually rich (2 Corinthians 8:9). He urges us to "Be rich toward God" (Luke 12:21), and to lay up treasure in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21). If you want true lasting wealth that's satisfying, then pursue spiritual riches by being baptized (Acts 22:16) and then serving God faithfully until death (Revelation 2:10). 🔍

# THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA: PERGAMOS

David Eldridge

“And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, ‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: “I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth. ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it’” (Rev. 2:12-17).

We continue in our study of the seven churches of Asia to discuss the church at Pergamos. This church was both commended and chastised by the Lord.

**A Surrounded Church:** The Lord said that the church at Pergamos dwelt “where Satan’s throne is” (Rev. 2:13). History tells us that Pergamos was the worship center of Asia and the first city in Asia to have a temple designed for worship of the Roman emperor. They were surrounded by evil and heathen worship. We find ourselves today also surrounded much wrong. We must watch our associations as we endeavor to keep ourselves pure (cf. 1 Cor. 5:9-10; 15:33).

**A Confessing Church:** Obviously, being surrounded by idolatry had resulted in persecution of the Christians in Pergamos. One Christian there, Antipas, had been martyred for the cause of Christ (Rev. 2:13). Persecution that was in the future for Smyrna was already present in Pergamos. Jesus said they had held fast to His name and had not denied His faith even in the midst of this persecution (Rev. 2:13). This church is to be commended as they remained a confessing church in the face of much opposition. As those who “live godly in Christ Jesus,” we will suffer persecution (2 Tim. 3:12). Will we buckle under the pressure and deny, or, will we continue to confess the Lord in word and action?

**A Tolerant Church:** Jesus did have a “few things” against the church in Pergamos. They had some there that held “the doctrine of Balaam” and “the doctrine of the Nicolaitians” (Rev. 2:14-15). Though we are unsure what the doctrine of the Nicolaitians was, you will remember that Balaam gave counsel which ensnared the Israelites into offering worship to idols (Num. 31:16). It seems then that there were some among the Christians at Pergamos who thought it good to offer sacrifices to idols. Though not every one was practicing such, they did not condemn this teaching and action. Too many churches are tolerant of false teaching today, allowing it to go on unchallenged. We must not only avoid wrong, but also reprove those who are involved in the wrongdoing and those who teach false things (cf. 1 Cor. 5:6-8).

**A Warned Church:** The church was warned by the Lord, “Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.” (Rev. 2:16). A tolerant church is a church in danger of the condemnation of the Lord (cf. 1 Tim. 6:3-5).

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” (Rev. 2:7)..–

## DUTY LIST...

### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Mike Ambrose  
Reading: Proverbs 24:1-7
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord’s Table:
  - Lead.....Kenny Todd
  - Serve.....Jeff Isbell
  - Serve.....John Nelson
- Closing Prayer.....Lynn Buttrey

### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Lord’s Table.....Michael Pickford

### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Invitation.....Kenny Todd

**Thank You For Serving!**

## GOD’S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16;  
Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

***Obey Today!***

***Home Bible Studies  
Available Upon Request!***